

Do Not Cast Your Pearls

Last week- From Judgment to Discernment

Mark 16:15 ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Matthew 7:6 ⁶ "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

The holy Word of God is entrusted to the church, and we have the precious pearl of the gospel of the Kingdom.

In general, we are to share these things with all who will listen, and to give away freely what we have received!

There are also times when, in wisdom, we must hold our tongues and cease to give precious things to unworthy people.

Peru Story

Acts 13:45-46 ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. ⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Jesus is clearly referring to a certain kind of person, a character to avoid. How can we recognize a swine/dog?

Philippians 3:2 ² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;

Worship in the spirit, who glory in Christ Jesus, and place no confidence in the flesh

They are religious people whose characters do not match their profession of faith.

Revelation 22:14-15 ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

They are people who hang out near the Kingdom but cannot enter by the gate because they have not washed in the Blood of the Lamb!

2 Peter 2:17-22 ¹⁷ These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, ¹⁹ promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire."

While we insist on sinning against God and refusing to repent, we cannot be saved; if we are saved and sinning, we cannot grow, and we are of all men most miserable!

But as soon as we are willing to repent, God will receive us with joy and gladness, and then we overcome in His strength!

Remember the Prodigal Son: He was a dog wallowing in His own vomit. He had become the company of swine. What did it take for him to come to his senses?

Luke 15:18-24 ¹⁶ And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was

giving *anything* to him. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" ²⁰ So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:7 ⁷ I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

If you are not a sheep of God's pasture, then today is the day of salvation! Put your trust in Jesus and turn from your sin!

If you are a sheep of God's pasture, you are not a dog! Walk away from the things the Spirit has vomited out of your life.

If you are a sheep of God's pasture, you are not a swine! You have been washed- do not return to the things He has saved you from!